

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for determining if an animal has been exposed to a specific hemolysin-producing fungus, which hemolysin is species-specific, comprising:

- a. contacting a sample from said animal with labeled antibodies which bind only to the hemolysin produced by the fungus or to active fragments of the hemolysin; and
- b. detecting any complex formed between the labeled antibodies and the hemolysin or active fragments thereof; and
- c. correlating presence of a complex with exposure to the fungus.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 wherein the sample from the animal is selected from the group consisting of blood, urine, and saliva.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of enzyme, radioactive, chemiluminescent, and fluorescent labels.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23 wherein the fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Stachybotrys chartarum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Candida albicans*, and *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for determining if an animal has been exposed to a specific hemolysin-producing fungus comprising:

- a. contacting a sample from said animal with labeled antibodies which bind only to a hemolysin produced by the fungus or to active fragments of the hemolysin produced by the fungus;
- b. detecting any complex formed between the labeled antibody and any hemolysin or active fragments thereof in the sample;
- c. correlating the formation of a complex with exposure to the fungus;
- e-d. wherein the fungal hemolysin used to prepare the labeled antibodies is isolated by culturing a strain of fungus, removing cells and debris from the culture to recover supernatant, and isolating

hemolytically active fractions of fungal  
hemolysin.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of enzyme, radioactive, chemiluminescent, and fluorescent labels.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 wherein the fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Stachybotrys chartarum*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Candida albicans*, and *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for determining if a building contains a hemolysin-producing fungus comprising:

- a. obtaining a sample from the building;
- b. obtaining hemolysin from the sample if hemolysin-producing fungi are present in the sample;
- c. contacting the sample with labeled antibodies which bind only to the fungal hemolysin or to active fragments of the fungal hemolysin; and
- d. detecting any complex formed between the labeled antibodies and the fungal hemolysin or active

fragments thereof, the presence of the complex  
indicating that the building has been exposed  
to the fungus.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of enzyme, radioactive, chemiluminescent, and fluorescent labels.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30 wherein the fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Stachybotrys chartarum*, *Candida albicans*, and *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for determining if an animal has been exposed to a specific hemolysin-producing fungus comprising detecting the presence of the hemolysin produced by the fungus in a sample from the animal, the presence of the hemolysin in the sample indicating that the animal has been exposed to the specific hemolysin-producing fungus.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for determining if an animal has been exposed to a specific hemolysin-producing fungus by determining if a sample from the animal contains antibodies specific to a hemolysin, comprising:

- a. contacting a sample from said animal with labeled hemolysin from a suspected hemolysin-producing fungus; and
- b. detecting any complex formed between the labeled hemolysin and antibodies to the hemolysin.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the sample from the animal is selected from the group consisting of blood urine, and saliva.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of enzyme, radioactive, chemiluminescent, and fluorescent labels.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34 wherein the fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Stachybotrys chartartum*, *Candida albicans*, and *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

38. (Previously Presented) A method for determining if a building contains fungi which may be deleterious to occupants of the building comprising:

- a. obtaining a strain of a fungus from the building;

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- b. culturing the fungus;
- c. applying the culture filtrate to a plate; and
- d. detecting the presence of hemolysin in the  
plate.